

In the claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): Apparatus for supporting a stator of an electric motor having a plurality of teeth, where each of the teeth is wound with a stator winding, comprising:

a support base member having formed therein a first annular support member and a second annular support member, wherein:

a the first support member ~~abutting~~ abuts a first portion of the stator; and

a the second support member ~~abutting~~ abuts a second portion of the stator, ~~wherein~~ and at least one of the first and second support members is slotted.

Claim 2 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first support member is slotted.

Claim 3 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said second support member is slotted.

Claim 4 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein both support members are slotted.

Claim 5 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first support member is bonded to the stator.

Claim 6 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second support member is bonded to the stator.

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first support member supports an inner portion of the stator and the second support member supports an outer portion of the stator.

Claim 9 (original): The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the outer portion of the stator is an end portion of the plurality of teeth.

Claim 10 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first and second support members are solid, continuous support rings.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): A disc drive data storage system having a motor for rotating a plurality of data storage disks comprising:

a housing having a base and a central axis;

a shaft attached to said base and coaxial with the central axis;

a rotatable member which is rotatable with respect to the shaft; and

a stator, coaxial with the rotatable member, being supported by at least two support members, at least one of said two support members being slotted.

Claim 12 (currently amended): Apparatus for supporting a stator of an electric motor having a plurality of teeth, where each of the teeth is wound with a stator winding, comprising:

a support base member having formed therein:

a first annular support means for supporting a first portion of the stator; and

a second annular support means for supporting a second portion of the stator, wherein at least one of said first and second support means is slotted.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the first support means is slotted.

Claim 16 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the second support means is slotted.

Claim 17 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein both support means are slotted.

Claim 18 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the first support means is bonded to the stator.

Claim 19 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the second support means is bonded to the stator.

Claim 20 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the first support means supports an inner portion of the stator and second support means supports an outer portion of the stator.

Claim 21 (new): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first support member abutting the first portion of the stator is fixedly attached to the stator.

Claim 22 (new): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second support member abutting the second portion of the stator is fixedly attached to the stator.